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Medusæ, the first legion of the class Medusa. There is no preface or introduction, but the descriptive part opens with a systematic register of the orders, families, genera and species of the legion; then are given the synonymy and characters of the Craspedotæ, of the two sub-legions into which they are divided, then of the orders and minor subdivisions, the definitions being detailed with explanatory remarks. The synonymy and descriptions of the species are fully given, so that the whole is a comprehensive monograph of the naked-eyed Medusæ of the globe; an ambitious undertaking, but one apparently well carried out.

The work is richly illustrated, the large plates being crowded with elegantly drawn figures; they are not so delicate as the illustrations of the Radiolaria, being chromo-lithographs, but are calculated to give some idea of the richness of tints of these beautiful and delicate marine forms; the illustrations are all drawn by the author, and the anatomical details are full and elaborately presented.

The author is anxious to receive specimens of jelly fishes from the Pacific coast for description in the remaining parts of this work, and those who are favorably situated should by all means contribute to the material which will be so well used. From the excellent figures of alcoholic specimens in this work, it is evident that specimens can be preserved and transmitted great distances in spirits.

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.—A sketch of the history of the fossil Vertebrata of India. By R. Lydekker. 8vo, pp. 36, 1880. From the author.

List of the members of the American Philosophical Society. 8vo, pp. 72, 1880. From the society,

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. 8vo, 1880, pp. 511–598.

Notes on the Geology of the Iron and Copper Districts of Lake Superior. By M. E. Wadsworth. (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., Geol. Ser., Vol. I.) 8vo, pp. 157, pls. 6, 1880. From the author.

Descriptions of new species of North American Fishes. By David S. Jordan. (From Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.) 8vo, pp. 9, 1880.

Description of a new species of Sebastichthys (*Sebastichthys miniatus*) from Monterey bay, California. By D. S. Jordan and C. H. Gilbert. 8vo, pp. 6, 1880.

On the Generic Relations of *Platyrhina exasperata*. By D. S. Jordan and C. H. Gilbert. 8vo, pp. 1, 1880.

Notes on a collection of Fishes from San Diego, Cal. By D. S. Jordan and C. H. Gilbert. 8vo, pp. 12.

Description of a new Flounder (*Xystreurys liolepis*) from Santa Catilina island, Cal. By D. S. Jordan and C. H. Gilbert. 8vo, pp. 16, 1880.

Notes on Sharks from the Coast of California. By D. S. Jordan and C. H. Gilbert. 8vo, pp. 1, 1880.

Description of a new species of Ray (*Raia stellulata*) from Monterey, Cal. By D. S. Jordan and C. H. Gilbert. 8vo, pp. 7, 1880.

Description of a new Agonoid Fish (*Brachyopsis xyosternus*) from Monterey bay, Cal. By D. S. Jordan and C. H. Gilbert. 8vo, pp. 6, 1880. From the authors.

Remarks on the species of the genus Chirus found in San Francisco market, including one hitherto undescribed. By W. N. Lockington. 8vo, pp. 5, 1880.

Description of a new Fish from Alaska (*Uranidea microstoma*). By W. N. Lockington. 8vo, pp. 2, 1880.

Description of a new species of Agonidæ (*Brachyopsis verrucosus*), from the coast of California. By W. N. Lockington. 8vo, pp. 9, 1880. From the author.

Observations on Mount Etna. By S. P. Langley. (From the Amer. Jour. Sci. and Arts, Vol. XIX, July 1880.) 8vo, pp. 12, 1880. From the author.

Introduction to the Study of Mortuary Customs among the North American Indians. By Dr. H. C. Yarrow. 4to, pp. 6, 114, 1880. From the author.

Contributions to the Archæology of Missouri. By the Archæological Section of the St. Louis Academy of Science. Pt. I.—Pottery. 4to, pp. 30, maps 5, pl. 24, 1880.

Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India. Series x. Indian Tertiary and Post-Tertiary Vertebrata. Vol. I, pt. IV.—Supplement to Crania of Ruminants, pp. 172–181, pl. 21–24. Pt. V.—Suvalik and Marbada Proboscidia, pp. 182–300, pls. 29–45. By R. Lydekker. From the author.

The Valley Naturalist. Vol. ii, No. 1, 8vo. St. Louis, 1880. From the editor.

The Student. Vol. I, No. 1, 8vo, 1880. From the editors.

Palæontographica. Breiträge zur Naturgeschichte der Vorzeit. 4to, pp. 88, pl. 11. Cassel, 1880. From the editors.

Beiträge zur Kenntniss der Flussfische Südamerika's. Von Dr. Franz Steindachner. 4to, pp, 23, pl. 4, 1880. From the author.

Ueber den geologischen Ban der libyschen Wüste. Von. Dr. Carl A. Zittel. 4to, pp. 47, map 1, 1880. From the author.

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GENERAL NOTES.

BOTANY.

THE FERTILIZATION OF AQUILEGIA VULGARIS.—A note by Mr. Thomas Meehan, in the "Bulletin of the Torrey Club" for June, 1880, recording the perforation of the curved spurs of certain species of columbine, induces the publication of the following article, based chiefly on the observations of Sprengel[1] and Dr. H. Müller.[2]

As the plant commonly grows, the flowers are pendant. The five sepals are petaloid, nearly flat, and aid in rendering the flowers conspicuous. Each petal is somewhat funnel-shaped at its base, but quickly narrows into a slender tube 15–22 mm. in length, which is bent inward and downward at about 5 mm. from its free end, nectar being stored in the portion beyond the bend, where it is secreted by a glandular thickening of the wall.

The pendant position of the flower renders it inconvenient for lepidoptera to obtain the nectar, for if they would do so they must hang from the lower part of the flower, since their proboscides flex readily only in a ventral direction; and this position is not always to their liking. The length of that portion of the spur lying below the bend is a sufficient protection against the removal of nectar by bees with short tongues, and the curvature seems to be a pretty good way of excluding birds, which, as Prof. Todd has shown,[3] and as I have observed during the past spring, visit the flowers of our native *Aquilegia canadensis*. Thus it

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[1] Entdeckte Geheimniss, 1793. S. 279.
[2] Befruchtung der Blumen, 1873. S. 118.
[3] AM. NATURALIST, Sept., 1880, p. 668.